

VACCINE POINTS

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

Test your vaccine knowledge.

Question: Which of the following is/are true regarding administering HPV vaccine at age 11 – 12 years of age?

- a) Healthy persons initiating the HPV vaccine series prior to age 15 years are recommended to receive 2 doses.
- b) Studies of HPV vaccine indicate that younger adolescents respond better to the vaccine than older adolescents and young adults.
- c) For HPV vaccine to be most effective, it should be given prior to exposure to HPV.
- d) The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to routinely vaccinate 11 – 12 year-old females in 2006 and males in 2011.

- 1) a and c
- 2) a, b, and c
- 3) b and d
- 4) d only
- 5) All are true
- 6) None are true

Sources: Use of a 2-Dose Schedule for HPV Vaccination – Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), December 16, 2016: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/pdfs/mm6549a5.pdf>
Immunization Action Coalition, Ask the Experts - Human Papillomavirus (HPV): http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_hpv.asp
Human Papillomavirus Vaccination – Recommendations of the ACIP, August 29, 2014: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/r6305.pdf>

For persons initiating vaccination before their 15th birthday, the recommended immunization schedule is 2 doses of HPV vaccine. The second dose should be administered 6 – 12 months after the first dose (minimum interval: 5 months). For persons initiating vaccination on or after their 15th birthday, the recommended vaccination schedule is 3 doses of HPV vaccine (0, 1–2 month, 6 month schedule). Immunogenicity studies have shown that 2 doses of HPV vaccine given at least 6 months apart to 9–14 year-olds provided as good or better antibody response than 3 doses given to older adolescents or young adults. Therefore, healthy children vaccinated at less than 15 years of age will only need 2 doses of vaccine rather than 3 doses if vaccinated at an older age.

For the HPV vaccine to be most effective, it should be given prior to exposure to HPV. All doses of the vaccine are recommended long before any type of sexual activity and potential exposure to HPV.

Routine vaccination with HPV was first recommended for females 13 years ago, in 2006. Males were recommended to routinely receive HPV vaccination at age 11 or 12 years eight years ago, in 2011.

Answer: 5) All are true

